(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No proposal regarding setting up of a new Central University in Darjeeling is, presently, under consideration of the Government. However, subject to approval by Parliament, a Central Tribal University proposed to be established with its headquarters at Amarkantak shall have powers to establish such number of its regional centres, *viz.* off-campuses constituted by the University and functioning as part of the University, in various tribal areas of the country as are, in the opinion of the University, necessary for furtherance of its objects. Resources permitting, during the Eleventh Plan, the proposed University could, thus, establish its off-campus at Darjeeling.

Quality in higher education

†2787. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have aceepted the report of the National Knowledge Commission for bringing quality in higher education and for bringing skill education and research of international standard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has made many important recommendations and Government have taken necessary decisions for their implementation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission are in the public domain for wider debate among all stakeholders.

Disinterest of students in basic science

†2788. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students in the country are becoming disinterested in studying basic science;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the level of students and research scholars studying science and technology is no longer upto the global standards from quality point of view;

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation is not able to get the required and prescribed number of brilliant students through competitive examination conducted every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's reaction thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.